

Benacre and Kessingland Flood Risk Management Project Update

After many months of hard work during lockdown, we are pleased to update you on all the work that has been carrying on in the background since we last were able to send out an update.

The Outline Business Case for the Benacre and Kessingland Flood Risk Management project, which enables to us unlock Government funding, was given technical approval in the summer, and we now have confirmation that this has been given full approval from the Environment Agency!

The project is currently being costed at £28m so we have been spending the last year or so sourcing funds and making applications. We can happily now let you know that we secured the full funding thanks to Central Government pots, Suffolk County Council and the Regional Flood and Coast Committee. We are now moving into the Delivery Phase of the project. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this happen - securing £28m is no mean feat in this financial climate!

- Our consultants Jacobs, on behalf of Natural England, produced a Habitat Creation Study, and there are some exciting concepts which could deliver significant environmental, economic and societal gain for the community. A working group is being set up to move this part of the project forwards.
- An application was made to East Suffolk Council on behalf of the Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland Internal Drainage Board to obtain a Certificate of Lawfulness to confirm that the IDB is able to carry out the required works under their Permitted Development Powers, meaning we wouldn't need planning permission. This has been granted which allows the project to move forwards.
- Detailed designs are now being drawn up by our consultants STANTEC for the flood defence embankments across the valley and the pumping stations. All going to plan, construction should start in 2023 and be completed in 2025 /2026.

Scheme Benefits

- 35 residential properties and 46 commercial properties will be at reduced flood risk
- 97ha of new intertidal habitat created
- 52km of river enhanced
- Flood protection to the A12
- 11million m³ of potentially available freshwater resources will be protected for the future
- 600ha of farmland in the floodplain will be better protected from flood risk
- Valuable fresh water abstraction within the valley protected from inundation from sea water.

Background to the Project

The purpose of the project is to provide a solution to significantly reduce all forms of flooding (surface water, river and tidal) through new flood defence embankments and pumping stations set further up the valley. Due to the rapid erosion of the shoreline urgent action is required to mitigate the potential for flooding from:

- structural collapse of the outfall defences at Benacre Pumping Station,
- erosion outflanking the pumping station to the north,
- erosion outflanking the pumping station outflanking to the south and
- waves overtopping from failure of the barrier beach to the south

Scheme Construction

Construction of the scheme will involve several new assets as detailed below,

- Construction of a new embankment across the Lothingland Valley to manage tidal flooding of the A12 and manage flood risk to property upstream, as well as cater for climate change. A new pumping station will be constructed at the new embankment to manage river flooding.
- Construction of a new embankment between Parkdean Holiday Park and Kessingland with a new small pumping station to manage surface water flooding.
- Decommissioning the existing Environment Agency pumping station, removing the structure and relocating the current rock armour.

Below is the *first* draft design drawing showing the location of new assets. New embankments (green lines) will be further inland across the Lothingland Valley and around Parkdean, with their required pumping stations. The area between the existing Benacre Pumping Station and the new embankment across the Lothingland Valley would become intertidal habitat. The blue line shows the proposed new alignment of the Lothingland River channel.



Wider Benefits

Beyond the flood protection, the scheme is looking to enabling two other separate but linked projects which aim to further increase the benefit the scheme can bring to the local area and community;

- Development of Intertidal and Wider Habitat Project
- Wider access, community amenity and business growth opportunities

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Kessingland Beach

Legend

Profile Alignment

Profile

- Alignment A
- Alignment F
- Alignment F South Extension

Intertidal levels (mAOD)

- MLOW - MLOW: -1.0 - -0.5
- MLOW - MSL: -0.5 - -0.16
- MSL - MSHW: 0.0 - 0.6
- MSHW - MHW: 0.6 - 0.9
- MHW - MHT: 0.9 - 1.4

Scale

0 200 400 Metres

Water Management Alliance

JACOBS

Project: Benane and Kessingland Flood Risk Management project

Short listed options

Client: Benane Flood Management Alliance

Project: Benane and Kessingland Flood Risk Management project

Drawn by: JLB Date: 10/11/2019

Checked by: JLB Date: 10/11/2019

Approved by: LAD Date: 10/11/2019

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Figure 3 - 1003588/000A-1400/0002

Revision: PD1

Drawing Scale: See Scale Bar

